

Saint Nicholas

Who was Saint Nicholas?

Saint Nicholas was born in Patara, which would now be part of Turkey, around 1,700 years ago. He was a generous person who, even from a young age, wanted to share his toys with other children. When he grew up, Saint Nicholas became a Christian bishop who devoted his life to helping the poor and needy. Stories are told of Saint Nicholas' selfless deeds, including giving money to a poor family by leaving money in their stockings that were drying by the fire.

What is a Saint?

- It is believed that a saint is someone who has a high level of holiness.
- A saint is a kind and honourable person.
- There are believed to be many different saints who each represent different virtues. For example, Saint Christopher who watches over travellers and Saint Valentine who is the patron saint of love and marriage.

Over the years, stories of his miracles and the work that he did for the poor, spread to other parts of the world. Saint Nicholas was a modest man and would often carry out these good deeds at night whilst people were sleeping. When people woke in the morning, they would thank God for their gifts. When he died, he became known as the saint of gift-giving.

Saint Nicholas has become a beloved figure for many people. He has many different names, including Sinter Klaas in Holland, Sankt Nikolaus in Germany and Father Christmas in the UK. Despite the different names, he is known for one thing - bringing happiness and joy to children all around the world. With the help of his faithful reindeer, his role is to deliver presents to around 90 million sleeping children on Christmas Eve each year.



Saint Nicholas Questions

1. Which country would Patara be part of today?

2. Finish this sentence: 'He devoted his life to helping....'

3. What do you think the word 'honourable' means?

4. Who is Saint Christopher?

5. What do you think the word 'modest' means?

6. Give two different names that Saint Nicholas is known by.

7. How many children will be receiving presents on Christmas Eve?

8. Why did people thank God for their gifts, rather than Saint Nicholas?

9. How do we know that Saint Nicholas is an important figure?

10. Think about your gifts and talents. What could you be a saint of?

Saint Nicholas Answers

1. Which country would Patara be part of today?

Patara would be part of Turkey.

2. Finish this sentence: 'He devoted his life to helping...'

He devoted his life to helping the poor and needy.

3. What do you think the word 'honourable' means?

Honourable means someone who is honest and trustworthy.

4. Who is Saint Christopher?

Saint Christopher is a saint who watches over travellers.

5. What do you think the word 'modest' means?

Modest means that someone is not boastful.

6. Give two different names that Saint Nicholas is known by.

Sinter Klaas in Holland, Sankt Nikolaus in Germany and Father Christmas in the U.K.

7. How many children will be receiving Christmas presents on Christmas Eve?

Around 90 million children will receive presents on Christmas Eve.

8. Why did people thank God for their gifts, rather than Saint Nicholas?

Saint Nicholas wanted his gift-giving to remain secret, so he delivered them at night. People were thankful and so thanked God for the amazing gifts.

9. How do we know that Saint Nicholas is an important figure?

He is a saint. He lived around 1,700 years ago and is still celebrated today.

10. Think about your gifts and talents. What could you be the saint of?

Varied answers.

Saint Nicholas

Who was Saint Nicholas?

Saint Nicholas lived around 1,700 years ago in part of Turkey. He grew up living with his parents and showed his generosity from a young age. When he was bought a gift, Saint Nicholas would share it with his friends. He loved giving presents and therefore it was no surprise that he decided to become a bishop where he could help people by spreading the word of God.

Patron Saints

- A patron saint is someone who watches over and represents a place, person or activity.
- Saints often became patron saints of the place where they were born.
- There are many countries around the world who have a patron saint. In England, the patron saint is Saint George and in Wales it is Saint David. In Scotland, they have Saint Andrew as their patron saint and in Ireland it is Saint Patrick.

One of the most popular stories about Saint Nicholas is when he helped a poor man who did not have enough money for his three daughters to get married. During the night, Nicholas secretly threw a bag of gold through the man's open window while the man slept. It landed in the eldest daughter's stocking that was drying by the fire. The next morning, the family were amazed and delighted by the gift they had received. Saint Nicholas often carried out his good deeds at night as he was a modest man who did not want any thanks.

Saint Nicholas gave his life to helping others and after he died, he became known as the saint of gift-giving. It is thought that Saint Nicholas now lives in the North Pole and every Christmas Eve, he visits the homes of boys and girls around the world. He brings gifts to children to spread joy and happiness at Christmas.



Saint Nicholas Questions

1. How many years ago did Saint Nicholas live?

2. What is a patron saint?

3. Who is the patron saint of Wales?

4. Which day does Saint Nicholas visit children around the world?

5. What is a 'good deed'?

6. Why was one family 'amazed and delighted'?

7. Finish this sentence: 'Nicholas secretly threw...'

8. Name two good deeds that would make someone happy.

Saint Nicholas Answers

1. How many years ago did Saint Nicholas live?

Saint Nicholas lived around 1,700 years ago.

2. What is a patron saint?

A patron saint is someone who watches over and represents a place, person or activity.

3. Who is the patron saint of Wales?

Saint David is the patron saint of Wales.

4. Which day does Saint Nicholas visit children around the world?

Saint Nicholas visits children on Christmas Eve (December 24th).

5. What is a 'good deed'?

A good deed is something that someone does for the benefit of others / to make other people's lives better.

6. Why was one family 'amazed and delighted'?

They found money left in a stocking for the daughters to get married.

7. Finish this sentence: 'Nicholas secretly threw...'

Nicholas secretly threw a bag of gold through the man's open window while the man slept.

8. Name two good deeds that would make someone happy.

Varied answers.

Saint Nicholas

Who was Saint Nicholas?

Saint Nicholas was a very kind person who enjoyed giving gifts to other people. Saint Nicholas grew up sharing toys with his friends that his parents had bought him. When he was old enough he worked in the church, sharing gifts and messages from God. Stories about Saint Nicholas travelled around the world. People were amazed by his kindness.

Names for Saint Nicholas around the world

- Santa Claus in the USA.
- Père Noël in France.
- Kanakaloka in Hawaii.
- Father Christmas in the UK.

Saint Nicholas normally gave his gifts at night whilst people were asleep so that it would surprise them in the morning. He didn't want them to say thank you to him, he just wanted to help them and make them happy.

It is believed that Saint Nicholas now lives in the North Pole with his reindeer and elves. He has a workshop where he makes toys and presents for children all around the world. On Christmas Eve, he sets off in his sleigh to deliver all of the gifts. He is helped on his way by his nine magical reindeer; Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph.

Did you know?

- On Christmas Eve, Saint Nicholas delivers presents to 90 million children.
- Rudolph was added to the reindeer team one Christmas Eve during a bad snowstorm. Rudolph, with his glowing red nose, lit the way to make sure that all of the presents were delivered in time.
- His sleigh travels at around 671 million miles per hour!



Saint Nicholas Questions

1. Where did Saint Nicholas work?

2. What is Saint Nicholas called in Hawaii?

3. When does Saint Nicholas normally give presents?

4. Name three of Saint Nicholas' reindeer.

5. How fast does his sleigh travel?

6. How did Rudolph help Saint Nicholas?

Saint Nicholas Answers

1. Where did Saint Nicholas work?

Saint Nicholas worked in the church.

2. What is Saint Nicholas called in Hawaii?

Kanakaloka is what Hawaiians call Saint Nicholas.

3. When does Saint Nicholas normally give presents?

Saint Nicholas normally gives presents at night.

4. Name three of Saint Nicholas' reindeer.

Three of the following: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph.

5. How fast does his sleigh travel?

His sleigh travels at 671 million miles per hour.

6. How did Rudolph help Saint Nicholas?

Rudolph helped during a bad snowstorm. With his glowing red nose he lit the way to make sure that all of the presents were delivered in time.